

This photo taken in the 1930's shows Felix Michaels behind the counter with customer Cameron Jones. The meat cooler on the right and to the rear was originally cooled by ice and later was converted to mechanical refrigeration. As one notes the Scott toilet tissue, upper left hand side, bears the identical wrapper as the product does today.



Clamming in the Fox River was a reality of the early 1900's. Clams were gathered by dragging a pipe with leaders on it over the river bed. As the leaders passed overhead, the clams would latch on as shown in the photo. Later the clams would be opened in hopes of finding a pearl. Not too many perfect pearls were found, but those that were had real value. According to gemologists, a fresh water pearl has a radiance not common to a saltwater pearl. The clam shells were sold to a button factory for manufacturing buttons.

The man on the left in the photo may be Aurora photographer Bill Thayer. The picture was possibly taken at Bereman's curve on the Fox River (near where River Bend intersects Route 25 today).



This picture of Barnard and Felix Michaels (left to right) was taken in the mid 1930's. At the left side of the picture is a rack which held the bulk cookies.



E. J & E Railroad Bridge on the south side of Aurora directly north of the Ashland Avenue Bridge, commonly called the J Bridge. The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway was a belt railway that serviced our area when industry was more reliant on the railroads for transportation. The right of way and bridge are now part of the Fox Valley Park District pathway system. This photo was taken in the early 1900s by Bill Thayer. In those days, people took bikes up on the top part of the bridge and rode them up there. The bridge is now a pedestrian bridge.



Coon hunting was one of the great sports of the early 1900's. This photo taken around 1905-1910 shows a good night's catch. Coon hunting was done at night, the coon being a nocturnal animal. A well trained coon dog was the secret of the hunt. Upon being pursued by the dog, the coon would seek refuge in a tree. Once treed, the hunters would shoot it with a shotgun just enough to knock it out of the tree and then catch it on the ground.

Pictured in this photo are Bernard Michaels, Felix Michaels (Gene's dad), Mike Edwards (Grandfather of Judge Jim Edwards), John Shuman (a cattleman on the Bereman farm) and one unknown man. Mike Edwards was a local truck gardener for whom the Michaels boys worked. John Shuman was cattleman for the Bereman family at their Boulder Hill farm.



This photograph of the Felix Michaels children (*Gene, Paul, Elizabeth*) shows the barber shop on Webster Street and to the right the infamous Riviera Tavern that stood on the site of *George's Family Restaurant* at the corner of Webster and River. The barber shop was behind the original Michaels grocery store along the alley.



Born in 1894, Felix Michaels was a long time resident of Montgomery. Felix moved to Montgomery in 1925 when with a brother named Bernard they bought out the A.C. Esser and Son Grocery Store at the corner of Main and Webster Street in Montgomery. Felix remained active in the business until the time of his death in 1975.

In 1917 Felix was drafted into the U.S. Army and took basic training at Camp Grant in Rockford, IL. Immediately thereafter, he was assigned to the U.S. First Infantry Division. Better known as the "Big Red One" the division participated in five major battles involving American forces in WWI. Serving as a corporal in "C" Company 28th Infantry Regiment, Felix remained fiercely proud of his service to his country throughout his life.

